

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 108-123 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add Claims 124-134 to read as follows:

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--124. An outline forming apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium, storing:

a plurality of coordinate data, including
a coordinate datum indicating a first outline point of a
pattern corresponding to a first weight value and a
coordinate datum indicating a second outline point of a
pattern corresponding to a second weight value, said second
weight value indicating a weight value at which vector data
change,

a plurality of vector data, including a
vector datum indicating a movement track of the first outline
point to the second outline point and a vector datum
indicating a movement track of the second outline point, and
identification information indicating
correspondence between each of the vector data and respective
weight values;

an inputter, for inputting a weight value;

an acquiring unit, arranged for acquiring coordinate and vector data corresponding to the weight value input by said inputter, from said storage medium, by referring to the identification information; and

a calculation unit, arranged for calculating coordinate data of an outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the weight value input by said inputter the coordinate data and the vector data acquired by said acquiring unit.

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125. The apparatus according to claim 124, further comprising a sending unit for sending the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.

126. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein the pattern is a character pattern.

127. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said storing medium stores a plurality of weight values at which vector data change.

✓ 128. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein the plurality of vector data includes vector data indicating a straight line and vector data indicating a curve of second or higher degree.

✓ 129. The apparatus according to claim 124, further comprising an output unit for outputting a pattern formed based on the coordinate data calculated by said calculation unit.

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✓ 130. The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said output unit includes a printer.

✓ 131. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said calculation unit operates on vector data.

✓ 132. The apparatus according to claim 124, wherein said storage unit stores degree information indicating degree of a function of vector data.

✓ 133. The apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said degree information includes an information

indicating that coordinate data is constant regardless of the change of weight value.

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134. An outline forming method utilizing a storage medium which stores:

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a plurality of coordinate data including a coordinate datum indicating a first outline point of a pattern corresponding to a first weight value and a coordinate datum indicating a second outline point of a pattern corresponding to a second weight value, the second weight value indicating a weight value at which vector data change;

a plurality of vector data including a vector datum indicating a movement track of the first outline point to the second outline point and a vector datum indicating a movement track of the second outline point; and

identification information indicating correspondence between each of the vector data and respective weight values, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a weight value;

acquiring coordinate data and vector data corresponding to the weight value input in said inputting